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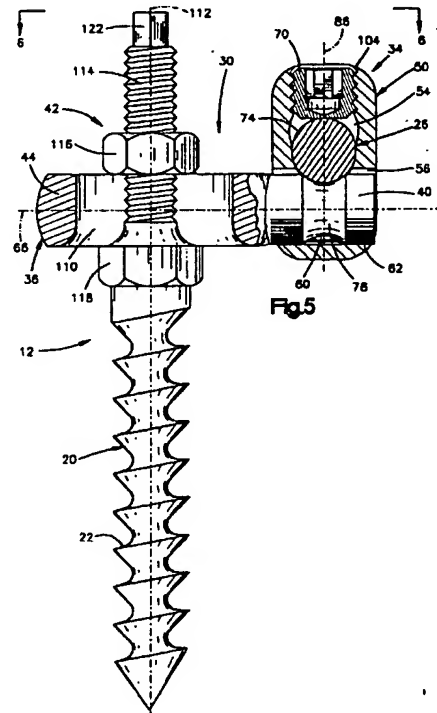
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**(54) Spinal column retaining apparatus**

(57) An apparatus for retaining vertebrae in a desired spatial relationship. The apparatus includes a fastener which cooperates with a connector assembly, a longitudinal member which is positionable along the spinal column at a location offset from the fastener, and a connector assembly which connects the fastener with the longitudinal member. The connector assembly includes a transverse member, a retainer block, and a set screw. The transverse member and retainer block have mating teeth. When the desired spatial relationship is achieved, the set screw is tightened thereby engaging the teeth and providing for a rigid locked assembly.



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 97 10 6894

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	US 5 474 551 A (FINN ET AL.) * the whole document *	1,2,4	A61B17/70
Y	---	3,5-17	
D,Y	US 5 053 034 A (OLERUD) * column 2, line 21-52 * * column 3, line 23 - column 4, line 3; figures *	3,12-17	
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A	---	14	
D,A	US 5 254 118 A (MIRKOVIC) * abstract: figures *		
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			A61B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>18 February 1998</b>	Examiner <b>Giménez Burgos, R</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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